

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 TRSE-00 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-02 /052 W

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R 091230Z DEC 76

FM AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3019

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USAREUR HEIDELBERG

USAFE RAMSTEIN

USCINCEUR STUTTGART

UNCLAS DUSSELDORF 1642

MILITARY ADDEES FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GW

SUBJECT: PAY BOOST IN STEEL INDUSTRY

1. ON DEC 8 THE GERMAN METALWORKERS UNION (I.G. METALL) AND THE EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION OF THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY FOR NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA (NRW) AND BREMEN AGREED TO A NEW ONE-YEAR WAGE CONTRACT. NEGOTIATIONS WERE PROTRACTED AND ACCOMPANIED BY OCCASIONAL WILD CAT STRIKES.

2. THE 220,000 STEELWORKERS OF NRW AND BREMEN WILL GET A SIX PERCENT ACROSS THE BOARD PAY BOOST, RETROACTIVE TO NOVEMBER 1, 1976. IN ADDITION ANNUAL LEAVE WILL BE PROLONGED BY ONE DAY FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS. BEGINNING JAN 77 THE ANNUAL SAVINGS BONUS WILL BE INCREASED FROM DM 312.- TO DM 468.-. OTHER FRINGE BENEFITS, TYPICAL FOR THE STEEL INDUSTRY, WILL BE CONTINUED.

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3. EMPLOYERS ESTIMATE THAT THE PAY BOOST INCLUDING FRINGES WILL AMOUNT TO SEVEN PERCENT. THE UNION HAD ORIGINALLY DEMANDED 8.5 PERCENT PLUS FRINGES. IN VIEW OF THE PRESENTLY SERIOUS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES IN THE GERMAN IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES, EMPLOYERS WILL FIND IT HARD TO FINANCE THE INCREMENTS, BUT ACCEPTED THE SETTLEMENT (1) IN THE HOPE OF AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE STEEL MARKET IN THE COURSE OF THE YEAR, (2) IN ANTICIPATION OF A 5 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE COST OF LIVING AND (3) IN ORDER TO AVOID A POSSIBLE STRIKE AND CONTINUING LABOR UNREST.DUX

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